Decline in Export of Leather

1648. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of Indian leather has declined at an alarming rate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost the export of leather?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has taken various steps and policy initiatives for export promotion of leather and leather products. These include implementation of Duty Exemption Pass Book Scheme and Duty Drawback Scheme; Tannery Modernisation Scheme; de-reservation of tanning and footwear sector from small scale industry; providing financial assitance to exporters for marketing of export products outside the country; and assisting in design and product development through Institutes like Footwear Design and Development Institute and Central Leather Research Institute.

Anti-Dumping proceedings against Indian Steel

1649. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact USA is taking an anti-dumping action against India due to huge export of Indian steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of adverse effect this will have on the Indian steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):

(a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The detailed statement indicating the nature of investigations done by USA over the last few years, is as follows:

Item	Nature of Investigation	Present Status
Stainless Steel Round Wire	Anti-dumping	In May 1999 the US authorities finally determined that the domestic industry has not been materially injured.
Cut-to-length Carbon Steel Plates	Anti-dumping and Anti-subsidy	In February, 2000 US authorities have imposed both anti-dumping as well as countervailing (anti-subsidy) duties. Government of India has taken up the issue with the Dispute Settlement Body of WTO.
Hot-rolled Steel Flat Products	Anti-dumping and Anti-subsidy	In Novermber, 2001 final anti-dumping and countervailing duties have been imposed by the US authorities.
Steel Wire Rope	Anti-dumping	Not duty was imposed as it was determined by the US authorities that the US industry was not materially injured.
Cold Rolled Steel products	Anti-dumping	Investigation is going on and the US authorities have preliminarily determined the dumping margin ranging from 7% to 153%.

(c) Due to the imposition of anti-dumping and countervailing duties by the US authorities, exports major category of steel products like

hot rolled steel and cut-to-length carbon steel plates from India to USA have been affected adversely. Imports of hot rolled steel by USA dropped by 91% in the first half of 2001 compared to the same period of 2000. It is almost non existent now. Similarly imports of cut-to-length carbon steel plates by USA from India between 1998—2000 has dropped by 98%.

Exports to developed countries

1650. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 27 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) whether exports have received a servere setback due to terrorists attack on WTC and other places in United States on 11th September, 2001;

(b) if so, the present export position with US and other developed countries; and

(c) the steps taken to enhance exports to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The synchronized global slowdown coupled with the September 11 event and its aftermath have led to lower export growth during the early months of the current financial year. However, as per the latest available data from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, India's exports of merchandise goods have picked up and are valued at US $ 36.526 billion during April-January, 2001-2002 which is 1.56% higher than the level of US $ 35.963 billion during April-January, 2000-01. Exports, during the month of January 2002, recorded a rise of 18.18% in dollar terms as compared to the exports of January, 2001.